4/9/70

Mr. Merrill Mazuer
WLS-TV
190 N. State St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Mazuer,

Surely you knew, from our phone conversation, that there can be no personal benefit to me in taking time from work that still averages more than 16 hours a day after six year of it to do your show, with or without a confrontation with your local ogre. If you doubt it, try and buy one of my books in Chicago.

My own experience in printed and electronic journalism, my appearances on countless shows, including three on your station, tell me the pull such a show would have, with or without Skolnick.

I have done as much as 18 hours continuously. I've been on most of the country's top stations, always welcome, usually invited back, despite the unwelcome subject on which I speak. I've taken over talk shows when the moderator was sick, once for three hours by phone for a top-rated show whose moderator had so little voice he did nothing but read commercials. When Louis Nizer agreed to a two-hour radio debate, to be followed by one on TV, that grew into a four-hour one, aired four times. He had me kicked of the TV show, with the heft he has, and has since been silent. Four Warren-Commission lawyers gave up a syndicated TV show they had requested rather than confront me alone as an opponent on it. And in all this time, on a ll these shows, no one ever abused me by asking me to write them in advance what I would say. Only because of the damage already done and the potential for more harm remaining in the irresppnsibility of what Skolnick has done and is up to, possible only because of the entirely uncritical attitude of those who air him (the slightest check and his cheap disintggrates), did I ask the time. So, you go your merry way, serving the people of Chicago by presenting Frankenstein and Dick Daring.

You know that if you bring me to Chicago you have every right to expect an exclusive. It is the custom. In my letter I asked for speedy response because I could approach no one else until you answered. I must have phoned you eight time this past week, without a single response.

Now I make a different request, for a tape of Skolnick's appearance. Among the reasons is to learn whether you aired my property without my assent. Knowing you are too busy to leave a simple message with a secretary, like "no", I trust you can find the time to direct that this be done. Soon.

With respect for your personal courage and integrity and thanks for your thoughtfulness and courtesies,

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg